

What is claimed is:

1. An aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion comprising a melt processible fluoropolymer in an amount of at least 25% by weight based on the weight of the aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion and a fluorinated surfactant having a molecular weight of not more than 1000g/mol in an amount of not more than 100ppm based on the weight of fluoropolymer solids or being free of said fluorinated surfactant, said aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion having a conductivity of at least 200 μ S/cm.

5 2. An aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the conductivity of said aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion is at least 500 μ S/cm.

10 3. An aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion according to claim 1 further comprising a non-ionic surfactant.

15 4. An aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion according to claim 1 wherein said fluoropolymer dispersion contains a water soluble inorganic salt or a tetraalkyl ammonium salt, the alkyl groups of which have 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

20 5. An aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion according to claim 4 wherein said inorganic salt is an inorganic metal salt or an inorganic ammonium salt.

6. An aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the amount of said fluorinated surfactant is not more than 50ppm based on the weight of fluoropolymer solids.

25 7. An aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the amount of said melt processible fluoropolymer is between 30% by weight and 70% by weight.

30 8. A method of reducing the amount of fluorinated surfactant having a molecular weight of not more than 1000g/mol in an aqueous dispersion of a melt processible fluoropolymer, said method comprising the steps of:

- contacting said fluoropolymer dispersion with an anion exchange resin so as to bind fluorinated surfactant thereto,
- and separating said fluoropolymer dispersion from said anion exchange resin;
whereby said aqueous dispersion of said melt processible fluoropolymer dispersion has a conductivity such that an amount of aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion equivalent to at least 3 times the bed volume of said anion exchange resin can be treated with said anion exchange resin before break through occurs or blocking of the resin bed occurs.

5 9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the conductivity of the aqueous dispersion after separation from said anion exchange resin is at least 200 µS/cm.

10 10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the conductivity of the aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion is adjusted with a water soluble metal salt.

15 11. A method according to claim 8 wherein said fluoropolymer dispersion contains a non-ionic surfactant as a stabilizer.

12. A method according to claim 8 wherein said aqueous dispersion is agitated with said anion exchange resin.

20 13. A method according to claim 8 wherein the fluorinated surfactant is removed such that the resulting dispersion contains said fluorinated surfactant in an amount of less than 100ppm based on the total weight of fluoropolymer solids.

25 14. A method of coating a substrate with a fluoropolymer, said method comprising the step of coating the aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion of claim 1 to the substrate.

15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of a metal substrate, a plastic substrate, cookware or a fabric.